

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Presently Amended) A method for splitting and sharing routing information among several routers within a group of routers, comprising:

- providing a group of routers;
- each of the routers acting as a single border router in an Internet protocol (IP) network,
- each router comprising a routing table; ~~said method, for use in a router of the group, comprising the steps of:-~~
 - ~~selecting routes in the routing table of the router;~~
 - ~~requesting other routers of the group to replace, in their routing tables, each selected route with the router as next hop;~~
 - ~~associating at least part of non-selected routes, each one with another router of the group;~~
 - ~~and~~
 - ~~removing and replacing in the routing table, each non-selected route associated with a router of the group by the associated router as next hop;~~
- comparing the size of the routing tables with a predefined threshold; and
- in response to the size of a routing table of a first of the group of routers exceeding the predefined threshold:
 - splitting the first router's routing table into a plurality of subnetworks;
 - a second of the routers taking responsibility for routing IP traffic intended for a
 - one of the plurality of subnetworks by informing each of the other routers that it is ready
 - to receive the IP traffic from the each of the other routers directed to the one subnetwork;

in response to the informing, each of the other routers selecting and removing from their own routing table a route related to the one subnetwork and replacing the removed route by a single route pointing to the informing second router.

2. (Presently Amended) The method according to the claim 1, comprising the further step of forwarding IP traffic corresponding to a non-selected route, to ~~the a router of the~~ group of routers associated with said non-selected route within the routing table.

3. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the step of requesting comprises the further steps of~~ further comprising receiving from at least one of the other routers the IP traffic corresponding to the selected routes; and routing said IP received traffic.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting routes in the routing table comprises the further step of selecting contiguous IP addresses within a given address range.

6. (Presently amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising the preliminary steps of establishing sessions with other routers of the group; and creating a list of routers of the group.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, comprising the preliminary step of establishing sessions with other border routers.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein routers within the group exchange routing information using Border Gateway Protocol.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)